

## Y'varekh'kha Adonai

יבָרְכֵה יְיָ וַיִשְׁמַרֵה. כִּן יְהִי רְצוֹן  
יָאֵר יְיָ פָנָיו אֲלֵיכָ וַיִּחְנֶן. כִּן יְהִי רְצוֹן  
יִשְׁאֵל יְיָ פָנָיו אֲלֵיכָ וַיִּשְׁמַע לְךָ שָׁלוֹם. כִּן יְהִי רְצוֹן

Y'va-re-kh'kha a-do-nai v'yish-m're-kha. Kein y'hi ra-tzon.

Ya-eir a-do-nai pa-nav ei-le-kha vi-khu-ne-ka. Kein y'hi ra-tzon.

Yi-sa a-do-nai pa-nav ei-le-kha v'ya-seim l'kha sha-lom. Kein y'hi ra-tzon.

May you find harmony with the divine, shelter and light.  
May the wonder of the infinite shine, gracious and warm.  
And may our holy God be in our heart, compassion and peace.\*

## D'rash

**May God bless you and keep you**—*May we always remember that God's creation is much richer than we can comprehend, and our material wants are satisfied when we open ourselves to its blessings and commandments.* **May God's face light you and grace you**—*Since we are blessed by God with the capacity to understand Torah, we may use that understanding to attain spiritual fulfillment through "insight into God's management in history and of our own mission and tasks in life" (S.R. Hirsch), so that we may be "gracious to one another and compassionate to one another" (Numbers Rabbah 11:6). **May God face you and give you peace**—*May we always exert ourselves to seek the face of God, the divine path of Torah, so that we pursue peace beyond ourselves, in our family and community, the reward for which is to be enlightened, and liberated from our private anxieties and depression.**

## Iyun Tefilla

### WHEN YOU LIFTED UP YOUR HANDS, AARON

Did it occur to you that  
They were created  
For just that moment?  
And when you said  
Vayisa Adonai panav eilekha,  
Could you imagine  
God's face  
Turning to you?  
Or, like the rest of us  
Were you worried  
About all the mistakes,  
Wondering,  
Would you be worthy  
Of the blessing?  
Would God want you?  
Given what happened  
With the calf and so on.  
And when you did raise  
Your hands,  
And God did turn,

Did you finally understand  
That it meant you?  
That your hands  
Could rise  
To God's purpose?  
That God's face could  
Turn to you?  
That you, like us,  
Were the purpose  
God had in mind  
From the beginning?

\* Interpretive translation of the Hebrew above, from Leviticus 6:24-26.

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